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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/562,929	12/30/2005	Takuya Tsukagoshi	126458	3679

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EXAMINER

STULTZ, JESSICA T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2873

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/14/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/562,929

Applicant(s)

TSUKAGOSHI ET AL.

Examiner

Jessica T. Stultz

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

Group I, claims 1 and 5; Group II, claims 3-4, 10, and 12-13; Group III, claims 6, 9, and 14; Group IV, claims 7-8 and 15-17.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner: Group I, claims 1 and 5 are drawn to a species of spatial light modulators wherein a plurality of micro mirrors are arranged in an array configuration, wherein the modulator provides a reflectance distribution to the micro mirror array specifically wherein the modulator provides a

reflection angle distribution to each micro mirror such that collimated light incident on the micro mirrors is reflected to be converged at one point for one of two reflection angle states, as shown in example 1, Figures 1a-b; Group II, claims 3-4, 10, and 12-13 are drawn to a species of spatial light modulators wherein a plurality of micro mirrors are arranged in an array configuration, wherein the modulator provides a reflectance distribution to the micro mirror array specifically wherein the distribution is set to an almost inverse proportion to a Gaussian distribution by adjusting a film thickness of a reflectively modulation film provided on a surface of the micro mirror for each micro mirror as shown in example 2, Figures 3-9; Group III, claims 6, 9, and 14 are drawn to a species of spatial light modulators wherein a plurality of micro mirrors are arranged in an array configuration, wherein the modulator provides a reflectance distribution to the micro mirror array specifically wherein the distribution is provided by arranging a mask plate, wherein micro apertures are formed at the same quantity and same pitch as the micro mirrors as shown in example 4, Figures 11-12; Group IV, claims 7-8 and 15-17 are drawn to a species of spatial light modulators wherein a plurality of micro mirrors are arranged in an array configuration, wherein the modulator provides a reflectance distribution to the micro mirror array specifically wherein the distribution is provided with a non-reflective region on a periphery of each of the micro mirrors and a mask plate arranged on a front surface of the micro mirror array as shown in example 5, Figure 13.

The following claim(s) are generic: claims 2 and 11 are generic.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons.

The special technical feature of the spatial light modulator commensurate with claims 1 and 5 comprises the modulator providing a reflection angle distribution to each micro mirror such that collimated light incident on the micro mirrors is reflected to be converged at one point for one of two reflection angle states, as shown in example 1, Figures 1a-b.

The special technical feature of the spatial light modulator commensurate with claims 3-4, 10, and 12-13 comprises the modulator providing a reflectance distribution to the micro mirror array specifically wherein the distribution is set to an almost inverse proportion to a Gaussian distribution by adjusting a film thickness of a reflectively modulation film provided on a surface of the micro mirror for each micro mirror as shown in example 2, Figures 3-9.

The special technical feature of the spatial light modulator commensurate with claims 6, 9, and 14 comprises the modulator providing a reflectance distribution to the micro mirror array specifically wherein the distribution is provided by arranging a mask plate, wherein micro apertures are formed at the same quantity and same pitch as the micro mirrors as shown in example 4, Figures 11-12.

The special technical feature of the spatial light modulator commensurate with claims 7-8 and 15-17 comprises the modulator providing a reflectance distribution to the micro mirror array specifically wherein the distribution is provided reflectance distribution to the micro mirror array specifically wherein the distribution is provided with a non-reflective region on a periphery of each of the micro mirrors and a mask plate arranged on a front surface of the micro mirror array as shown in example 5, Figure 13.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jessica T. Stultz whose telephone number is (571) 272-2339. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Mack can be reached on 571-272-2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Jessica T Stultz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2873
January 9, 2008